

First Year Report by Dr Abdelwahab El-Affendi (Visiting Fellow 2010-2011)

Spending the past year (from October 2010 to September 2011) at Cambridge University, as a Visiting Fellow at the Centre of Islamic Studies and the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, was extremely productive and enriching in all possible ways. I have benefited immensely from participating in the varied and important events and seminars organized by the Centre and other departments, and continued to engage in the Centre's 'Contextualising Islam in Britain' project, and even managed to do some teaching. The wonderful and conducive atmosphere at the Centre, together with the well-endowed library had been an immense help with my current research project.

As a result of this support and conducive atmosphere, I have been able to produce a significant number of publications, which include:

(With Francis M Deng) **“Creatively Re-Imagining a New Sudanese Nation: Achieving Conditional Unity”**, *Contemporary Arab Affairs*, Autumn, 3: 3, 334 — 351.

‘Making Peace Gambles Work: The Oslo Accords, the Sudanese “Comprehensive Peace Agreement” and their “Spirals of Insecurity”’, *Journal of Peace, Conflict and Development*, Issue 17, August 2011, pp. 1-22. (www.peacestudiesjournal.org.uk)

‘Constituting Liberty, Healing the Nation: revolutionary identity creation in the Arab world’s delayed 1989’, *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 32, No. 7, 2011, pp. 1255–1271

“A Trans-Islamic Revolution? Reflections on the Fate of Islamism in the Era of Arab Mass Revolutions”, *Critical Muslim*, 1: 1, October 2011

In addition, I have also been able to make a number of talks and presentation, which include:

“The Relationship between North and South Sudan after the January 2011 Referendum”, seminar presentation at the Centre for African and Asian Studies, University of Khartoum, Sudan, 25 August 2010.

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“The Next Day Scenario in Northern Sudan”, a paper to be presented to the Symposium: “The Referendum in Southern Sudan and its Internal and Regional Implications,” organised by Aljazeera Studies Centre, Doha, 9 January 2011.

“The ‘Black Hole State’ and the Obsession with the Fragility of the Arab State: The Sudanese Example in Counter-Productive Treatment”, a paper to be presented to the Symposium: “The Crisis of the Arab State”, organised by the Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Beirut, 10-12 January, 2011.

“Darfur and the War on Terror: The ‘Mamdani Thesis’ Revisited”, a paper to be presented to the Symposium: "Cartoons and Minarets: Western Depictions of Islam and Muslim Public Protest", organised jointly by the Heinrich Boell Foundation and American University of Beirut , Beirut , 31 March – 3 April 2011.

'Narratives of Insecurity and the Limits of Multiculturalism', a seminar presentation at the CIS Research Fellows Meeting, King's College, Cambridge, 28 February 2011.

'Compelling Cohesion: Varieties of "Liberal" Intolerance in the Obama Era', seminar presentation at the Research Day of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge, 21 March 2011.

'The Challenges Facing Northern Sudan after the Referendum,' Seminar Presentation, UNMIS- Khartoum 28 March 2011.

In addition, I have taken part in many other events and occasions, including meetings at the FCO, the Doha Research Institute (Beirut), Westminster, Khartoum, Edinburgh.

Work is also continuing on a number of other publications, including two books and a number of journal articles and book chapters.

This has all made been possible by the warm and friendly support of staff at CIS, in particular Professor Yasir Suleiman, Dr Saeko Yazaki and Clare Bannister. I am also grateful for the many colleagues who have shown welcome and support, including Dr Khaled Hroub, Dr Abdullah Baabood, and Dr Paul Anderson.